

Bothwell teenager braves snowy conditions to finish third

# Alick's still at the top

**LATE withdrawals by Colin Main and Jonathan Smith meant young Alick Kerr was left as the County's sole representative in the second round of the Brick and Steel 205 Ecosse Challenge, which took place in the Kielder Forest on Saturday.**

Main's car was not ready in time and the 17-year-old from Crossford crashed his Peugeot during a testing session with Alister McRae.

Although Kerr was unable to repeat his sensational victory at Crail last month, he nonetheless produced a very impressive perform-

ance to overcome the treacherous snowy conditions and finish third Challenge car home.

"We passed so many cars that had gone off the road," commented the Bothwell teenager.

"I reckon we could have been quicker if we'd pushed a bit harder, but the main thing today was keeping the car on the road.

"The conditions were horrendous out there," admitted an exhausted Alick at the finish. "To give an indication of how bad the track was, our wheels were spinning in fourth gear on the straights."

"With so many cars lying off the road, we at least had a bit of warning as to where the slippery bits were," continued co-driver Tom Hynd,

whose vast experience helped the Kerr team turn in an extremely strong result.

The podium finish ensures Alick remains at the top of the Brick and Steel 205 Ecosse Challenge points table.

He holds a healthy lead over second-placed driver Dave Retson.

The challenge was run as part of the Border Counties Rally, second round of the County Saab Scottish Rally Championship, an event which also attracted county drivers.

Motorcycle ace John Crawford finally finished 12th overall in the main rally with his Escort, despite crashing into logs after the flying finish of one stage.

That crash took almost the entire side off the car but in true Coltness Car Club style he continued with large amounts of gaffer tape holding bits on and covering those that were missing.

Blackwood's Graham Holmes was out in a similar car but broke down on stage three. Colin McRae then landed his helicopter nearby to see if he could help, but the car was retired with a burnt-out coil.

Scotland's rallying action continues on Saturday with the re-scheduled, snow postponed, Crail round of the Scottish Tarmac Championships. Young Jonathan Smith is amongst those taking part.